

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 NIC-01 OMB-01

ACDA-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAB-01 SAM-01 CIEP-01 /083 W

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R 070840Z NOV 74

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1456

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0864

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR IZ UR

SUBJ: SOVIET ACTIVITY IN IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 719; 818

1. AS RESULT UNPRECEDENTED SUCCESS OF FRENCH PM CHIRAC'S VISIT (BAGHDAD 863), ARAB AMBASSADORS NOW OPENLY TALKING ABOUT LIKLIHOOD OF SOVIET COUNTER-OFFENSIVE TO HALT DRIFT OF IRAQ TOWARD WEST. AS DEPPT AWARE, WE BELIEVE SOVIET EFFORT BEGAN SOME MONTHS AGO AND IS NOW IN FULL SWING. AMONG RECENT SOVIET VISITORS WERE DEP MIN OF DEFENSE AND CHIEF OF STAFF VICTOR KULIKOV (NOV 26-DEC 1); SOVIET MIN OF LAND RECLAMATION AND WATER RESOURCES ALEKSEYEVSKIY (DUE DEC 7; DEP MIN OF SPORTS; AND HIGH LEVEL WOMEN'S DELEGATION. THERE WILL NO DOUBT BE OTHER HIGH LEVEL VISITORS TO PREPARE FOR BREZHNEV'S
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VISIT IN LATTER PART OF JAN.

2. SOVIET DISPLEASURE WITH REGIME EVIDENCED IN RECENT SERIES OF EDITORIALS IN CIP DAILY TARIQ ASH-SHAAB. ONE EDITORIAL SAID ESTABLISHMENT OF DOMINANT PUBLIC SECTOR DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY BENEFIT WORKING MASSES; E.G. IFF "RIGHTEST ELEMENTS" DIVERT STATE'S CAPITAL TO SERVE THEIR OWN INTERESTS. THIS CAN ONLY BE AVOIDED IF LABORERS, PEASANTS AND EDUCATED REVOLUTIONARIES PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING, EXECUTION AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT. ANOTHER EDITORIAL CRITICIZED PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FROM CAPITALIST COUNTRIES UNDER PRETEXT OF TECHNOLOGICAL BACKWARDNESS OF SOCIALIST REGIMES.. CENTRAL PLANNING MINISTRY WAS CRITICIZED BY TARIQ ASH-SHAAB FOR BEING STRICTLY TECHNICAL BODY ISOLATED FROM POLITICAL AWARENESS AND IT CALLED FOR EMULATING USSR PLANNING MODEL.

3. COMMENT: UNDERLYING CAUSE OF SOVIET-IRAQI TENSION BELIEVED TO BE TWO MAJOR TRENDS OF IRAQI POLICY (A) CONCENTRATION OF POWER IN HANDS OF BAATH TO EXCLUSION OF ICP AND OTHER "PROGRESSIVE" ELEMENTS, MAKING SHAM OF MUCH TOUTED NATIONAL FRONT; AND (B) INCIPIENT POLITICAL RAPPROACHMENT WITH WEST, INCLUDING WILLINGNESS TO ENGAGE IN EC-ARAB DIALOGUE, AND WITH CONSERVATIVE ARAB REGIMES WHICH UNDERCUTS SOVIET STRATEGY OF BACKING ARAB "RADICALS.". BARRING SOME EXTERNAL EVENT SUCH AS ARMED CONFLICT OVER IRANIAN INCURSIONS INTO IRAQ OR NEW ARAB-ISRAELI WAR, SOVIETS ARE UNLIKELY TO REVERSE IRAQI POLICIES WHICH HAVE, AS DEPT AWARE, BEEN GRADUALLY BUT STEADILY EMERGING DURING PAST 18 MONTHS.

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